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THE MADAGASCAR HAMMERKOP DESCRIBED AS NEW

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In comparing the specimens of *Scopus umbretta* from Madagascar, collected by the Mission Zoologique Franco-Anglo-Américaine, with East African specimens it appears that the former differ enough to be separated subspecifically. For the Madagascar form I propose the following name.

Scopus umbretta tenuirostris, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 410683, American Museum Natural History; ♂ ad.; Tananarive, Madagascar; May 7, 1929; J. Delacour.

DIAGNOSIS.—Similar to *Scopus umbretta umbretta* but differs in having the bill considerably more slender (viewed from the side).

MEASUREMENTS.—The depth of the bill at the junction of the mandibular rami in the Madagascar birds is: ♂ 15, 16, 17; ♀ 15, sex? 17, 17; in the African specimens one male has the depth of the bill 17, but in twenty-two other males measured the depth varies from 17.7 to 20.9; in twenty-six females it varies from 17 to 20.8.

The Madagascar birds have the following measurements:

	MALE	FEMALE	SEX NOT DETERMINED
Wing	320, 322, 332	312	313, 315
Bill length[1]	74, 77, 78	75	71, 78
Tarsus	73, 74, 76	71	70, 71

These measurements fall within the range of measurements of the larger African form.

RANGE.—Madagascar.

REMARKS.—The above measurements show the difference between the slightly differentiated Madagascar race and the continental form. The measurement of the depth of the bill must be taken with care and specimens in which the mandible does not properly meet the maxilla discarded. I have considered all the larger African birds as *umbretta*, the only slightly larger size of *bannermani* making it doubtful whether it should be recognized (see Bates, 1931, Ibis, p. 302, and Chapin, 1932, Bull. Amer. Mus., LXV, p. 450). Specimens from South Africa have slightly more slender bills than those from East Africa, which are geographically nearest to the slender-billed Madagascar bird.

[1] Measured with dividers from the lateral feathering above nostril to tip.

Specimens of *umbretta* from Gaboon, which approach Madagascar birds in the depth of the bill, are somewhat smaller in other respects (wing ♂ 292, 305, ♀ 298, 300; bill length ♂ 72, 76, ♀ 70, 70), and are evidently an approach toward *minor*.

The smaller race, *minor*, from West Africa between Nigeria and Cameroon, has the depth of the bill as small as in Madagascar birds, but that is due to the smaller size of the bill (length of bill ♂ 67, 67, ♀ 62, 66, 68), not because it is more slender. The race *minor* may also be distinguished from the two other races by its smaller size and darker color (wing 250–266).

The six Madagascar specimens examined all have the barring on the tail very distinct. Some of the African specimens have the barring as distinct but in many of them the barring of the tail is somewhat obscure. There appears to be no constant plumage difference.